

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/605,987

Examiner

Gregory J. Vaughn

Applicant(s)

KOPPEL ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the After Final Amendment filed 9/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-38,40-44,46,47 and 57-62.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

### *Action Background*

1. This action is responsive to the Amendment After Final Rejection, filed on 9/28/2006.
2. Applicant has cancelled claims 63-65, and amended claims 59 and 60.
3. Claims 1-38, 40-44, 46, 47, 57-62 are pending in the case, claims 1, 8, 9, 24, 46, 59, 60 and 61 are independent claims.
4. In the office action dated 12/7/2004, claims 1-38, 40-44, 46, 47, 57 and 58 were allowed. The subject matter of this office action is claims 59-62.
5. Applicant has amended claims 59 and 60 and canceled claims 63-65. As this amendment places the application in condition for allowance, the finality of the previous Office Action (dated 6/14/2006) has been withdrawn.
6. The examiner's rejection of claims 63 and 65, made under 35 USC 101, as being non-statutory (see the office action dated 6/14/2006) is withdrawn in view of the canceled claims.
7. The examiner's rejection of claims 59, 61 and 62, made under 35 USC 101, as being non-statutory (see the office action dated 6/14/2006) is withdrawn in view of applicant's remarks indicating a tangible result is achieved by the claimed invention in light of the support found in the originally filed specification, particularly, that the user of the invention would receive a

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tangible result of the "generating documents" aspect of the invention in the form of documents that are generated for display to the user.

8. The examiner's rejection of claims 63-65, made under 35 USC 112, as failing to comply to the written description requirement (see the office action dated 6/14/2006) is withdrawn in view of the canceled claims.
9. The examiner's rejection of claims 59-62, made under 35 USC 112, as failing to comply to the written description requirement (see the office action dated 6/14/2006) is withdrawn in view of the amended claims.
10. The examiner's rejection of claims 63-65, made under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Ryan et al., US Patent 6,421,675 (see the office action dated 6/14/2006) is withdrawn in view of the canceled claims.
11. The examiner's rejection of claims 59-62, made under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Ryan et al., US Patent 6,421,675 (see the office action dated 6/14/2006) is withdrawn in view of the amended claims.

***Reasons for Allowance***

12. Claims 1-38, 40-44, 46, 47, 57 and 58 were previously allowed. The reasons for allowance of these claims is described in the office action dated 12/7/2004.

13. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance for claims 59-62:

**Regarding independent claims 59, 60 and 61**, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor suggests to a person of ordinary skill, at the time the invention was made, the claimed method of generating documents based upon a search query (or responding to a search query, or of providing search results) by obtaining an initial set of documents relevant to the search query, computing the number of referencing links between the documents in the initial set of documents, assigning relevance scores based upon the number of link references that are computed, and sorting the documents based on the relevance scores by ranking, grouping or filtering.

14. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone

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number is (571) 272-4131. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory J. Vaughn  
Patent Examiner  
September 28, 2006

  
STEPHEN HONG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER